

LOOKING AHEAD



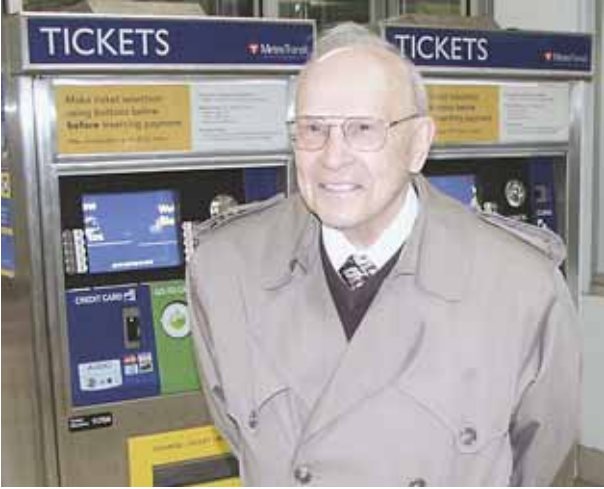
All people have hardware – organs, eyes, faces, hearts, the body – that is almost similar. But the software of which we’re built is different. I grew up in Egypt. I was programmed differently. I react to situations differently. I have my own mind-set on things. So when we blend in all those things that people from

different cultures with different software offer into one goal – to achieve and accomplish their mission on the job – we’re going to get some of the best ideas in being the best in business.

Bahgat Elsagher, 15-year employee, Seagate

Transportation is important because for the past 50 years cities have been built for the automobile rather than for individual transportation. Today that’s changing considerably because we have so many jobs in Bloomington. People need to be able to move to and from their jobs comfortably and to and from entertainment and civic functions. Some day when I’m a senior citizen, we will probably need transportation that is easily accessible, safe and secure.

Ted Nemzek, 20-year resident



PEOPLE AND CULTURE
EMBRACE DIVERSITY AND CULTURES OF OTHERS

As Bloomington’s population becomes more ethnically, racially and culturally diverse, the City will need to offer services that meet the needs of this changing population. Shifting demographics not only affect the way the City communicates with various groups, but also interactions between members of the community. Residents said they want a rich, culturally diverse environment that includes restaurants, ethnic shops, and arts and historical assets. People expressed the desire to reach out to their neighbors and enhance their sense of community.



Education is very important to Bloomington. I’m a 29-year resident. I’ve had five children who have gone through the Bloomington Public Schools. When it was time for me to finish my degree, I came to Normandale Community College. I’ve seen how education can transform lives. I would like to see everyone have the experience of an education.

Barb Teed, 29-year resident

TRANSPORTATION
CREATE CONVENIENT, SUSTAINABLE MEANS TO REACH OUR DESTINATIONS

Convenient and sustainable transportation is important to the future needs of residents, who said they don’t want to rely solely on private automobiles to meet their transportation needs. “Develop pedestrian- and bike-friendly routes” was the number one response for investing in the city’s transportation system; “improve public transit” was the

number two response. Increasing walkability and biking routes in Bloomington will also enhance the health and recreation opportunities for the community. It is very important that the city’s roads are maintained and in good condition. “Repairing city streets” was the number one service for which people would pay more taxes, if necessary.

Many city streets were installed more than 50 years ago during Bloomington’s population and building boom. The time is approaching when these streets will need to be reconstructed. Continuing initiatives such as the Pavement Management Program will identify problem areas and develop maintenance and replacement schedules for Bloomington’s aging streets.



It’s so very important to protect and conserve the natural spaces that we have for wildlife and for ourselves. Green places protect our water and air. We need that. I think it’s just very important that people of all ages get to enjoy the cycles of nature and, at the same time, conserve it for our next generation.

Monica Williams, 19-year resident

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
CARE FOR OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND MEET RECREATIONAL NEEDS

In the 1950s, as Bloomington developed, the City created public parks and open spaces, envisioning a playlot, playground or park within walking distance of all residents. Today, one-third of the community, or more than 9,000 acres, is parks and open spaces. Looking ahead 20 years, survey respondents listed protecting the environment and providing stewardship of natural areas as priorities. In addition, it will be necessary to look at how park facilities and recreational programs will continue to meet the needs of Bloomington’s residents.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
SUPPORT EXCELLENT SCHOOLS, BUILD AND MAINTAIN JOBS

Participants stated repeatedly that education – the city’s schools and colleges – is one of Bloomington’s key strengths. When asked, 92 percent of residents said the quality of schools in Bloomington was excellent or good. According to a new survey commissioned by the School District, good schools were the most important factor when families selected Bloomington as a place to live. By maintaining top-rated schools, Bloomington will continue to be a popular city in which to live and work. It is also important to create and maintain a balance of jobs in Bloomington. Maintaining good transportation facilities and providing excellent City services will ensure that Bloomington remains an attractive place for businesses that expand the tax base and create jobs.